

Consideration of the dedication of the Russell Bend Nature Preserve in Parke County

The proposed Nature Preserve is a 283.34 acre property that is in the northwestern portion of Parke County, approximately 3.5 miles northwest of the town of Bloomingdale. This nature preserve will protect classic examples of the deeply entrenched tributaries of Sugar Creek in Indiana's Entrenched Valley Section of the Central Till Plain Natural Region.

This Nature Preserve consists of sandstone rock walled gorges featuring extensive outcrops of sandstone bedrock covered in unique cliff dwelling vegetation. Seeps in the fractured bedrock provide a cool and protected environment for many species of ferns and mosses.

The preserve also includes waterfall, and extremely rugged topography covered with high quality forests, an extensive and healthy stand of Eastern Hemlock, and part of the upper rim of the gorge and adjacent to Coal Hollow Nature Preserve. Many unique and beautiful plants including Blue Cohosh, Spikenard, Bulblet Fern, Walking Fern, Blue Ash, Witch Hazel, and Plantain-leaved Sedge are found in the preserve. This larger forested block provides habitat for such species of concern as the worm-eating warbler, broad-winged hawk and Eastern box turtle.

Russell Bend is part of the Sugar Creek Conservation Area, owned by the Division of Fish and Wildlife and part of the Healthy Rivers Initiative, a large, significant conservation area along Sugar Creek involving many partners. It is part of a large forested stream corridor that includes Turkey Run State Park (to the east) and the Covered Bridge State Forest. This tract is owned and managed by the INDR Division of Fish and Wildlife. It will be managed within the larger Healthy Rivers Initiative and will be open to hunting during designated seasons.

The Division of Nature Preserves and the Division of Fish and Wildlife recommend dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

Attached is Nature Preserves exhibit A.

Russell Bend Nature Preserve

County: Parke
Size: 283.34 acres

Exhibit A

USGS Quad Map: Kingman
Ownership: Div of Nature Preserves and Div of Fish & Wildlife

